

# CS238 - Project 1 README

Shreya S Ramanujam

October 15, 2025

## 1 Description of Algorithm Used

For this project, I used the K2 algorithm followed by a greedy local search (add/remove edges greedily) to further optimize the graph we get from K2. The pseudocode for the algorithm is detailed below:

---

**Algorithm 1:** Bayesian Network Structure Learning using K2 and Greedy Hill Climbing

---

**Input:** Data matrix  $D$  with  $n$  discrete variables

**Output:** Directed acyclic graph  $G$

**Initialization:**

Initialize an empty directed graph  $G$  with  $n$  nodes.

Set a variable order  $[1, 2, \dots, n]$ .

Compute initial score of empty graph  $S \leftarrow \text{BayesianScore}(G, D)$ .

**K2 Edge Addition Phase:**

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do

    for  $j \leftarrow i + 1$  to  $n$  do

        Add edge  $(X_i \rightarrow X_j)$  to  $G$ .

        Compute  $S_{\text{new}} \leftarrow \text{BayesianScore}(G, D)$ .

        if  $S_{\text{new}} > S$  then

$S \leftarrow S_{\text{new}}$

// Keep the edge

        else

            Remove edge  $(X_i \rightarrow X_j)$

// Revert if score decreases

**Greedy Hill Climbing Refinement:**

for each node pair  $(i, j)$  with  $i \neq j$  do

    if there is no edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$  in  $G$  then

        Add edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$  to  $G$ .

        if  $G$  is acyclic then

            Compute  $S_{\text{new}} \leftarrow \text{BayesianScore}(G, D)$ .

            if  $S_{\text{new}} > S$  then

$S \leftarrow S_{\text{new}}$

            else

                Remove edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$

        else

            Remove edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$

    else

        Remove edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$ .

        Compute  $S_{\text{new}} \leftarrow \text{BayesianScore}(G, D)$ .

        if  $S_{\text{new}} > S$  then

$S \leftarrow S_{\text{new}}$

        else

            Re-add edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$

**Output:**

Return the final DAG  $G$  with the highest Bayesian score  $S$ .

---

For the K2 algorithm, I did try different modifications, like:

- Taking 10 random node orders, doing K2 on all of them and then picking the graph with the maximum Bayesian Score.
- Picking an edge which reduces the score a small fraction of the time (around 10% of the time).
- Trying a Mutual-Information informed ordering for the nodes, which means that nodes with a higher total Mutual Information will be earlier in the ordering.

Ultimately, I just settled on a regular node ordering for K2 (1, 2, ... n) and did local search afterwards on K2 graph. This seemed to give the best final Bayesian score.

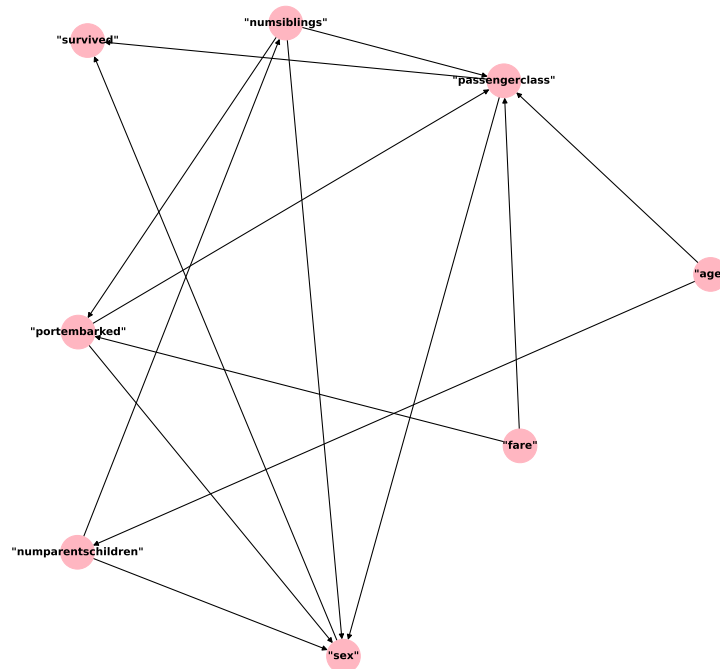
## 2 Running Times

The running time for various datasets is given below:

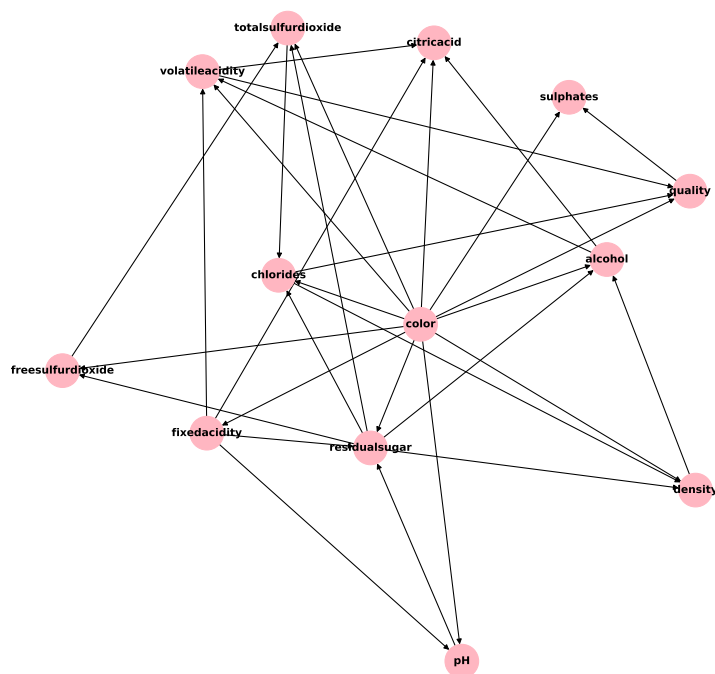
- **small.csv:** 0.25 seconds
- **medium.csv:** 11.07 seconds
- **large.csv:** 1145.86 seconds

## 3 Visualizing Graphs

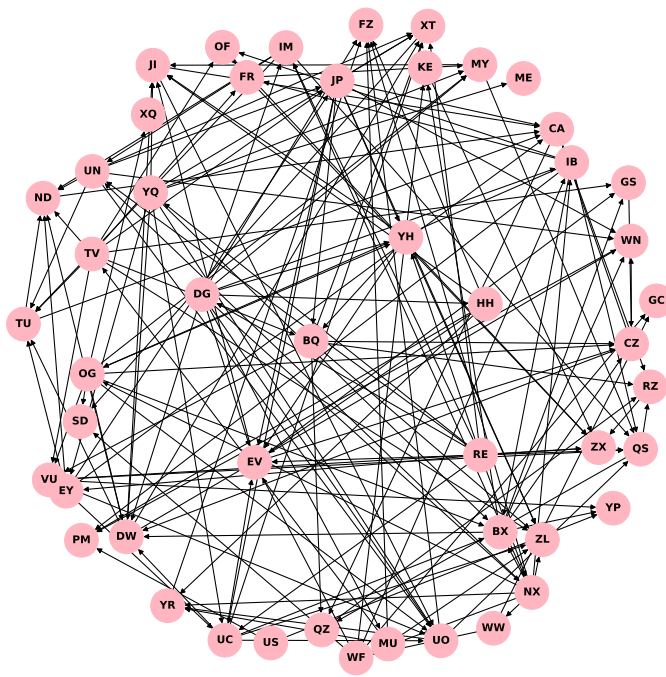
### 3.1 Final Graph for small.csv



### 3.2 Final Graph for medium.csv



### 3.3 Final Graph for large.csv



## 4 Code

First, we define all our helper functions in `utils.py`:

---

```
1  # utils.py
2  import numpy as np
3  import math
4  from collections import defaultdict
5  import networkx
6  from sklearn.metrics import mutual_info_score
7
8  def count_configurations(node, parents, data):
9      """
10     Count occurrences of each configuration of a node given its parents.
11     """
12     # initialize a dictionary of dictionaries initialized to 0
13     counts = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(int))
14     # print("Counting configurations for node:", node, "with parents:", parents)
15     for row in data:
16         parent_values = tuple(row[parents]) if parents else ()
17         node_value = row[node]
18         # print("Row:", row, "Parent values:", parent_values, "Node value:",
19             ↪ node_value)
20         counts[parent_values][node_value] += 1
21     return counts
22
23 def bayesian_score(graph, data):
24     """
25     Calculate the Bayesian score of a given graph structure based on the provided
26     ↪ data.
27     """
28     score = 0.0
29     for node, parents in graph:
30         # print("Node:", node, "Parents:", parents)
31         counts = count_configurations(node, parents, data)
32         # count the number of unique values the node can take
33         unique_node_values = set(data[:, node])
34         for parent_values, val_dict in counts.items(): # all key value pairs - here
35             ↪ it is key : (parent values), value : {node val: count}
36             # print("Parent values:", parent_values, "Value counts:", val_dict)
37             m_ij0 = sum(val_dict.values()) # total count of all values for this
38             ↪ parent configuration
39             for m_ijk in val_dict.values():
40                 score += math.lgamma(m_ijk + 1) - math.lgamma(1) # Assuming uniform
41                 ↪ prior : alpha_ijk = 1 for all k
42             score += math.lgamma(len(unique_node_values)) - math.lgamma(m_ij0 +
43                 ↪ len(unique_node_values))
44     return score
45
46 def mutual_info_order(data):
47     """
48     Compute the mutual information between all pairs of variables and return an
49     ↪ ordering based on it.
50     We do this to get a better initial ordering for the K2 algorithm.
```

```

46     """
47     num_vars = data.shape[1]
48     mi_matrix = np.zeros((num_vars, num_vars))
49
50     # Calculate mutual information for each pair of variables in given dataset
51     for i in range(num_vars):
52         for j in range(i + 1, num_vars): # mutual information is symmetric
53             mi = mutual_info_score(data[:, i], data[:, j])
54             mi_matrix[i, j] = mi
55             mi_matrix[j, i] = mi
56
57     # Sum mutual information for each variable
58     mi_sums = np.sum(mi_matrix, axis=1)
59     # Get ordering based on ascending mutual information sums
60     order = np.argsort(mi_sums).tolist()
61
62     return order

```

---

The actual data processing and structure learning algorithm are defined in `project1.py`. We call helper functions from `utils.py` wherever required.

---

```

1  # project1.py
2  import sys
3  import math
4  import numpy as np
5  from utils import bayesian_score, mutual_info_order
6  import networkx
7  import time
8
9
10 def write_gph(dag, idx2names, filename):
11     with open(filename, 'w') as f:
12         for edge in dag.edges():
13             f.write("{} {},{}\n".format(idx2names[edge[0]], idx2names[edge[1]]))
14
15
16 def compute(infile, outfile):
17     # converting data csv to numpy array
18     data = np.loadtxt(infile, delimiter=',', skiprows=1, dtype=int)
19
20     # mapping variable names to indices to make computation faster (no more dicts)
21     num_vars = data.shape[1]
22     var_names = np.loadtxt(infile, delimiter=',', dtype=str, max_rows=1)
23     name2idx = {var_names[i]: i for i in range(num_vars)}
24     idx2names = {i: var_names[i] for i in range(num_vars)}
25
26     # deciding an order for K2 algorithm
27     order = list(range(num_vars))
28     # initialize graph with no edges
29     dag = networkx.DiGraph()
30     dag.add_nodes_from(range(num_vars))
31     # get the graph for the initial (no edges) structure
32     graph = [(i, list(dag.predecessors(i))) for i in range(num_vars)]
33     current_score = bayesian_score(graph, data)
34
35     # time the algorithm

```

```

36     start_time = time.time()
37
38     # K2 algorithm
39     for i in range(num_vars):
40         node = order[i] # for each node in the order, try to add right children
41         for potential_child in order[i+1:]: # only consider nodes that come after it
42             ↪ in the order
43             dag.add_edge(node, potential_child) # add the edge
44             new_graph = [(j, list(dag.predecessors(j))) for j in range(num_vars)]
45             new_score = bayesian_score(new_graph, data)
46             if new_score > current_score: # if score improves, keep the edge and
47                 ↪ update score
48                 current_score = new_score
49             else: # otherwise remove the edge
50                 dag.remove_edge(node, potential_child)
51
52     # now, take this graph and do greedy hill climbing to improve it further
53     for i in order:
54         for j in range(num_vars):
55             if i == j: # self loops not allowed
56                 continue
57             # try adding edge i -> j if it doesn't create a cycle
58             if not dag.has_edge(i, j):
59                 dag.add_edge(i, j)
60                 if networkx.is_directed_acyclic_graph(dag): # only keep if no cycle
61                     new_graph = [(k, list(dag.predecessors(k))) for k in
62                                     ↪ range(num_vars)]
63                     new_score = bayesian_score(new_graph, data)
64                     if new_score > current_score:
65                         current_score = new_score
66                     else:
67                         dag.remove_edge(i, j)
68             else:
69                 dag.remove_edge(i, j)
70             # try removing edge i -> j
71             dag.remove_edge(i, j)
72             new_graph = [(k, list(dag.predecessors(k))) for k in
73                             ↪ range(num_vars)]
74             new_score = bayesian_score(new_graph, data)
75             if new_score > current_score:
76                 current_score = new_score
77             else:
78                 dag.add_edge(i, j)
79
80     end_time = time.time()
81     print("Time taken: {:.2f} seconds".format(end_time - start_time))
82     print("Final score: {}".format(current_score))
83     write_gph(dag, idx2names, outfile)
84     print("Wrote graph to {}".format(outfile))
85
86 def main():
87     if len(sys.argv) != 3:
88         raise Exception("usage: python project1.py <infile>.csv <outfile>.gph")

```

```
88     inputfilename = sys.argv[1]
89     outputfilename = sys.argv[2]
90     # time the compute function
91     compute(inputfilename, outputfilename)
92
93     if __name__ == '__main__':
94         main()
```

---